
Longacre's Ledger

Vol. 7, No. 3

July - September 1997



Official Publication

Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

The "Fly-In Club"

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A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents

A Buyer's and
Enthusiast's Guide
to
Flying Eagle and
Indian Cents



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LONGACRE'S LEDGER

Official Publication of the

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Vol. 7, No. 3

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FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The purpose of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent
Collectors Society is to promote the study and
collection of Longacre's design of small cents.

OFFICERS

President.....	Larry R. Steve
Vice President.....	Chris Pilliod
Secretary.....	Xan Chamberlain
Treasurer.....	Charles Jones

State Representatives

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ON THE COVER...

1855 Indian Cent

When the 168 grain Large Cent became too costly to produce, this smaller (100 grain) bronze example was experimented with. Politics of the day got in the way of the issuance of this coin. and in 1856 the Copper-Nickel cent was proposed and accepted on February 21, 1857. This coin is a PCGS graded MS-65RB, Ex. Larry Paddock collection.

(photo by Rick Snow)

Articles, opinions and comments appearing in this Journal reflect the views of their author and may or may not agree with those of the Society.

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Send comments, inquiries, and article submissions to Deborah Wiles, Longacre's Ledger Editor, 9017 Topperwind Ct., Fort Worth, Texas 76134.

LONGACRE'S LEDGER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Larry Steve, President



I have but some very brief comments to make for this issue. The Club is continuing to make progress on many different fronts.

Deborah Wiles is now fully in charge as Editor of *Longacre's Ledger* and is simply doing a superb job. The first issue under her editorship was Vol. 7, No. 2 (last issue). I think we all owe her a round of applause the next time we meet with her. J.T. Stauton is now providing the printing of the *Ledger*, and he, too, is doing a terrific job. In addition, J.T. is handling the labelling and mailing of each issue. Financially, we should be able to realize a sizeable savings in our expenses over the course of a year. Thanks to both of them.

Bill Walker, Chairman of the State Representatives, has taken steps to bring about a cohesive and comprehensive program. Some of his initiatives include coordinating a distribution of our brochures (membership applications), bringing on board new State Representatives, and exploring the possibility of lending video tapes to the Reps for presentations. In this issue, Bill has provided a full report on some of our newer State Reps. Thanks.

John Savio, one such new State Rep., has volunteered to represent our Club in West Virginia. I have known John for a number of years now (and have purchased a coin or two from him); his interest in Flying Eagle and Indian cents runs very deep. I know that he will do a fine job. On behalf of all the members, we welcome him on board. Thanks John.

Mark McWherter has submitted a final working draft of our Constitution and By-Laws. Now that we have these documents, we have a basis upon which we can begin the arduous task of refining the provisions to meet our needs and objectives. I urge those who are interested to contact Mark for this continuing project. To Mark: Thanks!

Until the next issue....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** FREE CLASSIFIED ADS ***

As part of our continuing effort to provide greater service to our members, we are implementing, *on a trial basis*, a FREE classified ad program. Effective immediately until further notice, each member will be entitled to one free classified ad per issue, limited to not more than 25 words (name and address not counted). All other provisions of our Advertising Policy remain in effect.

*** MARKETING DIRECTOR ***

Jon Lerner of Scarsdale Coin has volunteered to serve as the Club's Marketing Director. Jon will be responsible for soliciting advertisers for *Longacre's Ledger*, as well as other marketing aspects of the Club. Jon can be reached at: 717 White Plains Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583, (914) 722-3606.

*** ELECTIONS ***

This is an election year; ballots should be included with this issue. The term of office is to run for two years, 1998-1999.

*** EDITOR'S ADDRESS ***

Deborah Wiles is the Editor for our Club's journal, *Longacre's Ledger*. All articles, advertising, or other items to be printed in the *Ledger* are to be sent to:

Deborah Wiles, Editor *Longacre's Ledger*
9017 Topperwind Court
Fort Worth, Texas 76134

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to avoid delays or confusion, please be certain to indicate *Longacre's Ledger* on all correspondence.

*** WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE ***

John Savio of West Virginia has volunteered to represent the Fly-In Club in his home state. We welcome him on board.

A COMPLETE SET OF FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENTS

By Ken Moe, Fly-In 914

What collector doesn't dream of building a complete set of a particular coin? Yet for series like the Flying Eagle cent and Indian Head cent, the matter of completeness is problematic. There are numerous value guides, in book form and in numismatic periodicals, but they are not consistent in their listings of coin types and varieties. The typical coin album includes spaces for the 1856 Flying Eagle cent pattern and the 1869/9 Indian cent, both of which are desirable coins to own, but are they really part of a complete set? And why are coins like the two 1886 types and the 1873 open and closed 3 types not provided for in some albums? Collectors, whether they use coin albums, cabinets, boxes, or homemade displays, usually set goals for their numismatic searches, and acquiring a complete set is the logical goal for most of them.

The Fly-In Club is the ideal source for establishing a standard complete set of our favorite coins. I urge the Fly-In Club to publish such a standard based on objective criteria and propose that such a set consist of 62 pieces.

The 1856 Flying Eagle cent would not be included because it was produced as a promotional pattern (and restrike) that was not intended for commerce. Some 1856 small cents did enter circulation, so a case could be made for inclusion of this rare issue, but including it in albums has already had a negative impact on the small cent segment of the numismatic hobby. Staring at that gaping 1856 space has discouraged many budding collectors. Only a very small number of collectors will ever be in a position to own this prize, and the prospect of never accumulating a complete set because of the 1856 has had the psychological effect of turning collectors to some other series that doesn't have such a stopper. The Barber dime series would be much more popular if the unfortunate 1894S never existed. Although the 1856 small cent is common compared with the 1894S dime, the presence of the 1916 Standing Liberty quarter, with a much larger population, has had a depressing effect on the collection of that beautiful series. Dropping the 1856 Flying Eagle pattern from the standard list would, I believe, attract more committed collectors to the series.

Doubled die varieties and overdates are desirable coins, and most advanced collectors seek them out for their collections. I own a few myself, but I would not include them in a standard complete set, because they are essentially quality control errors. Also, these varieties are virtually limitless as new discoveries are frequently made. A supplemental list of the top ten doubled die and overdate varieties based on

population research would be useful for advanced collectors and would probably stir interest among newer collectors. But this would be an addendum to the main list.

So then, what would a standard complete set consist of? I would include coins with different dates, mintmarks, different alloy compositions, and differences in design. Therefore, in addition to one for each year and the two San Francisco mint issues, the following types would be part of a complete set:

- 1858 large and small letter types
- 1860 pointed and rounded bust types
- 1864 copper-nickel, bronze, and L types
- 1865 plain 5 and fancy 5 types
- 1873 open 3 and closed 3 types
- 1886 type 1 (IC) and type 2 (CA)

Putting together a set of these 62 coins would be a satisfying achievement for any collector. For those with large discretionary incomes, a high grade complete set offers a stimulating challenge. For those of modest means, all of these coins can be found (with patience) in various circulated grades at affordable prices. Even the 1877 is reasonably available in lower grades and can be acquired by the budget-conscious collector, as many dealers offer lay-away plans. As the collecting impulse is whetted, and the beginning collector matures into an advanced collector, upgrading and expanding into varieties will naturally beckon. And someday a diligent collector may discover a significant design difference that has been overlooked for a century. If that happens, the standard complete set would grow by one. But in the meantime, the dream of completeness would be an achievable goal for nearly all collectors.

And while I'm at it, here's another proposal. The Fly-In Club could work with a numismatic supply manufacturer to produce a high quality Flying Eagle and Indian cent album that includes spaces for the standard complete list, plus additional spaces (or an additional page) for varieties. The club could be the sponsoring or endorsing entity, with the Fly-In logo on the album cover. This would certainly bring much publicity to the club, maybe a little income, and maybe more members.

What do you think? No doubt I have overlooked something which a sharp reader will spot immediately. For purposes of simplicity, I have left out "ONE CENT" position differences on reverses and have completely ignored different die pair combinations. I would welcome responses, refinements, and further suggestions from other club members, either through letters to the *Ledger* or directly to me. My email address is Moe2Revs@aol.com.

SOMETHING NEW!

by Richard Snow, Fly-In #1 LM
Club Attributer

This is the first installment of what will be a regular feature to the *Longacre's Ledger*. What I plan to write about in this article are the best newly reported varieties. If you have something of interest, please make sure it gets submitted for attribution. How do you know if your treasure is an unreported variety? Read on...

Early this year, Chris Pilliod handed over the attribution reigns to me. Presently I am working very hard on listing all Flying Eagle and Indian cent varieties known, including all varieties published in my 1992 book "Flying Eagle and Indian Cents," all varieties reported to me since then, and all those reported to Chris during his tenure as attributer. My work on proof dies will also be included. This report - "The Fly-In Club Attribution Files" - will be ready this summer or fall. My work on this book, as well as Chris Pilliod's five years as attributer, are volunteer efforts for the Fly-In Club's benefit. All pertinent cross references will be made as well. Additional information about ordering the book will be forthcoming.

The first variety is an 1878 Double Hubbed Reverse. Discovered by Bill Affanato, this double hubbed die shows outward spread mainly on the oak leaf veins on the left side of the wreath. The variety is assigned variety number S-3. It is also registered as CONECA 1-R-III. Bill reported this to me back in January 1995, and none have come to light since. Have you turned over your 1878 lately?



1878 S-3 Double Hubbed Rev

In 1870, the reverse design of the Indian cent was changed slightly from a "shallow N" (type 1 or Hub C) design to a "Bold N" (Type 3 or Hub D). Many 1870 shallow N dies were rehugged, with the bold N hub creating many design hub doubled reverse for 1870 (Type 2 or Hub b/c). In my 1992 book, I mention that a few 1871s have been seen with the shallow N reverse, and noted that they are scarce. I think that rare may be a better appraisal of the 1871 Type 1. I also noted that 1873 Closed 3 and Open 3 Type 1s have been recorded, which I listed as very scarce, but now I feel rare is more appropriate. The 1872 was not noted as being known, until now.



1872 S-10 Mole on Cheek / Shallow N (Type 1) Rev.

The 1872 Type 1 was recently discovered by your attributer, Rick Snow, while cataloging a beautiful MS-65RB (NGC) specimen for sale by Eagle Eye Rare Coins. I cherrypicked my own inventory! The obverse die showed a small "Mole" on the cheek, a raised blob of metal created by some die defect, possibly a rust pit. Soon afterward, I acquired an AU-58 specimen from the same dies. This AU piece was a coin that I had originally sold in 1995 unattributed. It came back to me the same way - unattributed. I cherrypicked my own inventory again. Both coins were originally offered with 25% premiums, but these premiums were waived when sold since I had found them in my own inventory. Interest in reverse types like the 1959 high leaves and low leaves and the 1870-73 shallow Ns is presently in its infancy stage. Have you turned over your 1871, 1872, or 1873 lately?

Most of you know by now that the other post-1870 issue found with a Type 1 reverse is the 1877. All mint state examples of that year are from one shallow N die.

This is a boldly misplaced digit which shows the top serif of the 1 above the denticles below the 1 in the date. This was discovered by your attributer, Rick Snow, at the recent Central States show in Indianapolis. Misplaced digits are gaining wide popularity due to the work of Marv Erickson and also because of interest spurred on by Kevin Flynn and his forthcoming book on the subject.



1869 S-12 MPD: 1 in Denticles

The coin exhibits die striations from 7:00 to 1:00. These die striations were caused when the die was ground down with too coarse of an abrasive. Is it possible that the Mint employees saw the widely misplaced digit and tried to efface it? We can only wonder.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

by W. O. Walker

Since the first update article, with its call for additional State Representative volunteers and a renewed membership drive, appeared in the Fall 1996 issue of the *Ledger*, there have been a number of developments which warrant reporting.

First of all, as it turned out, two of our new volunteers for State Representative positions have been admirably promoting the club since their appointment to same by President Larry Steve last summer. Both John Savio of West Virginia and misplaced date specialist Marvin Erickson of Idaho are welcome additions to the ranks and knowledgeable collectors of the series.

More recent volunteers include Ron Cohen of Georgia, Dave Siebert of Missouri, W. Pat Dwyer of Montana, and David Hur of Utah. Club members in these states now have a point of contact for club programs and events and the club has an active representative to aid in our membership drive. This brings the total number of volunteers to 24 and we heartily welcome these new State Representatives on board. For those members wishing to contact them, their addresses appear elsewhere in this issue under "Information on State Representatives."

Although gains have been made, there is still much work to be done. Henry Hettger, the Virginia State Representative, whose collecting passion has swayed to Large cents, has resigned his position. This leaves Virginia, as well as Illinois, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, where there are a large number of coin shows and a large collector base, in dire need of club representation. Once again I urge any member, collector, or dealer interested in volunteering to serve in those states, or any state currently not represented, to contact me or any club officer in this regard.

As for the membership drive, all State Representatives have recently been supplied with a fresh inventory of membership brochures to aid them in this endeavor. Special note should be made of the Nebraska State Representative Quint Hansen's proactive approach. Noting the expense of the membership brochures, yet desiring to reach as large a target audience as possible, Quint contacted Don Hespe, President of the Nebraska Numismatic Association, who graciously volunteered to print up 500 flyers promoting the Fly-In Club at no charge! My personal thanks to both Quint and Don for their efforts. These flyers are a relatively inexpensive substitute for the more expensive membership brochures and can be left, in quantity, at the entrance to a bourse floor, thus ensuring their widest possible dissemination at a show. I urge each of the State Representatives to consider this avenue as an alternative in reaching as large a number of collectors as possible in their own geographical area. Feel free to contact Quint to obtain an example of the flyer currently being used.

Any member interested in volunteering to fill a position as a State Representative, or to obtain a membership application for an interested party, may contact me at P.O. Box 2221, Wilton, NY 12831.

LATE DATE INDIAN CENT VARIETIES by Douglas W. Hill

This time I want to explain how the date position and lapping line tools can help you find those unknown rare die marriages that I know are still out there. In the next article I will return to a discussion of individual crumbling varieties.

Most collectors want to find rare or undervalued varieties. In the early and mid 90s, great progress was made in the discovery of new doubled dies and repunched dates. And many of these discoveries have turned out to be truly rare. However, some have not. It must be remembered that just because a date was repunched or a doubled die was created due to an error in the hubbing process, that rarity is not guaranteed. Rarity is more closely related to the number of coins produced by a die pair and the survival rate of the coins produced. Also, in the excitement related to the discovery of new doubled dies and repunched dates, there has been a tendency to ignore the normal, plain vanilla varieties. Remember that every die marriage is a variety! The plain vanilla varieties often comprise 95% of the varieties in the variety universe. When searching for rarity, these die marriages, due to their great number, simply must be considered.

Now back to the point of this article. Date position and lapping lines are important because they allow us to identify die marriages resulting from dies which have been hubbed and which otherwise, in most cases, would be unidentifiable. In order to find the rare die marriages, we first must use these tools to categorize all of the die marriages. I know that distinctions among different date positions and lapping lines often are slight. But, with a little study, they can be learned. Look at the collecting history of the late date large cents which were manufactured essentially in the same way as the Indian cents. Many late date large cent collectors know how to identify these marriages, and today, high grade extremely rare varieties often sell in the \$10,000 - \$20,000 range. Not a bad return for the time expended!

DIE VARIETIES OF LATE DATE INDIAN CENTS: THE NEXT STEP

by Douglas W. Hill

Learn to attribute die marriages and to estimate their rarity. Covers the years 1886 Type 2 through 1889. The first of 7 books from 1886 - 1908S.

Plastic comb binding allows for the entry of later editions. There are rare but little known late date varieties still out there. This book will help you find them.

Available now.

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HOW MANY ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

by Jerry Wysong

These summer months have carried the aromas of barbecues tickling the palate on those warm evenings and again on weekends. There's also gardening and fishing (we won't talk about the lawn mowing ritual) and long awaited vacations to just plain relax and rejuvenate the spirit. With these thoughts in mind, is it any wonder that coin shows are few and far between throughout the summer?

Speaking of Coin Shows; one of the better kept secrets of the South is the Blue Ridge Show in Dalton, Georgia August 8-10. This show has received high marks from both collectors and dealers in attendance for the past several years. The show also received very positive reviews by David Harper in the *Numismatic News* in the past. Collectors residing within a 4-6 hour drive of Dalton, Georgia, say it was well worth the time.

The finds reported in this issue include two more 1857 \$20 Obv. clashed die (S-7). The total reported finds for this popular but scarce variety now exceed the number of reported finds of the 1857 25c Rev. clashed die (S-8). This is a bit surprising since it has always been assumed that the S-7 was the more scarce variety. Have more S-7s been found because the clashing is on the obverse and therefore more quickly observed when examining a coin? Since most coins are displayed with the obverse facing up, to find the S-8, one has to turn the coin over, and even then the clashing of the 25c is not as quickly spotted.

Commencing with the next issue, we will add the 1858/7 Die #2 FE cent to the Census. In the meantime, let's hear from all of you who are the proud owners of this variety. You can report your finds to me: Jerry Wysong, P.O. Box 292561, Dayton, Ohio 45429.

May you all have a pleasant and rewarding summer, and we'll have more to report in the fall.

The finds reported to me for the period of April 1 through June 10, 1997 are listed below:

DOUBLE DIES

1. 1909 DDO FND-001; AU; W. O. Walker

REPUNCHED DATES

1. 1894/4 S-1; Very Fine; Jerry Wysong
2. 1867/67 S-1; G/VG; (3 coins); Marvin Erickson
3. 1867/67 S-1; Fine; Marvin Erickson
4. 1867/67 S-1; VF; Marvin Erickson
5. 1891/1891 S-3; G/VG; Marvin Erickson
6. 1891/1891 S-3; Fine; Marvin Erickson
7. 1891/1891 S-3; Very Fine; Marvin Erickson

CLASHED DIES

1. 1857 \$20 Obv. S-7; Fine; Henry Hilgarde
2. 1857 \$20 Obv. S-7; Very Good; Henry Hilgarde
3. 1857 25c Rev. S-8; EF-40; Quint Hansen
4. 1857 50c Obv. S-9; ANACS VF-30; Quint Hansen

MISPLACED DATES

1. 1884 S-1; G/VG; Marvin Erickson
2. 1884 S-1; Fine; Marvin Erickson
3. 1884 S-1; AU; Marvin Erickson
4. 1894 S-2; G/VG; Marvin Erickson
5. 1894 S-2; Fine; Marvin Erickson
6. 1894 S-2; MS-60; Marvin Erickson

CORRECTIONS/UPDATES

1. 1872 S-1 reported in Jan-March issue as NGC MS-64 RB should be MS-66 RB (Glen Marhefka)
2. 1873 S-1 upgraded from ANACS -64 to NGC MS-64 RB (Rick Snow); no change in overall Census

DOUBLED DIE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1864 DDO BZ		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
1865 1-R-IV	S-2	5	0	4	1	2	3	2	1	0	0	18
1866 1-O-V	S-1	1	5	9	7	3	2	2	3	1	0	33
1868 1-O-III	S-1	0	0	2	6	5	1	4	4	0	0	22
1870 1-O-IV (3)	S-1	0	0	2	11	7	7	4	7	1	0	39
1870 2-O-IV	S-3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
1870 3-O-IV	S-5	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
1873 1-O-III	S-1	30	16	16	14	19	6	3	1	2	0	107
1873 2-O-III	S-2	0	1	4	9	11	7	6	3	3	0	44
1874 DDO; EDS	S-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	5
1880 1-O-IV	S-1	0	0	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	0	14
1887 1-O-V	S-1	23	10	4	7	3	0	2	1	0	0	50
1889 1-R-III	S-1	2	1	3	4	4	2	2	2	1	0	21
1890 1-O-II (3)	S-1	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	0	17
1891 1-O-IV	S-1	7	2	4	4	5	2	1	2	1	0	28
1909 DDO FND-001		0	0	0	0	2	2	4	3	3	0	14

MISPLACED DATE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1870 0 in Dent.	S-5	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
1870 FND-004		0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
1883 1 in Neck	S-1	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	3	1	1	16
1884 4 in Dent.	S-1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	11
1888/7	S-2	1	1	1	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	11
1888 8 in Dent.	S-8	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
1891 FND-003		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
1894 94 in Dent.	S-2	4	1	0	2	2	1	0	3	0	0	14
1897 1 in Neck	S-1	28	15	7	12	6	2	4	1	0	0	75
1902 0 in Dent.	S-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2

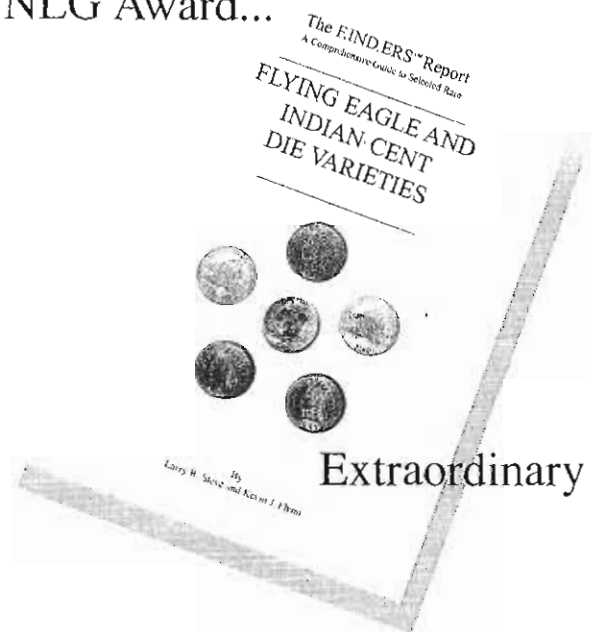
REPUNCHED DATE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1857/57	S-11	0	0	2	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	10
1858/57 EDS	S-1	2	1	12	10	12	3	2	5	0	0	47
1859/1859	S-1	6	1	1	5	5	1	0	1	0	0	20
1865/4 Fancy	S-1	3	0	0	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	11
1865/4 Plain	S-1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	5	1	0	10
1866/1	S-3	3	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	0	18
1867/67	S-1	30	8	13	9	4	7	6	14	5	0	96
1869/18	S-1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
1872/182	S-1	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	1	20
1888/7 die #1	S-1	5	1	4	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	15
1891/1891	S-3	10	3	7	4	5	2	6	6	0	0	43
1895/895	S-1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
1894/1894	S-1	78	10	13	9	4	3	6	6	3	1	133

CLASHED DIE TABLE

****MINT STATE****												
		<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>60/62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1857 \$20 Obv.	S-7	8	2	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	19
1857 25c Rev.	S-8	1	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	15
1857 50c Obv.	S-9	9	4	7	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	28

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THE F.IND.ERS™ REPORT

SUBTITLE: A Study of 1870 Reverse Dies – Part 2

by Larry Steve
Fly-In Club Life Member

In the last issue, I presented the basic differences between the Type 1 and Type 3 reverse for Indian cents dated 1870. It would be best to refer back to that issue, as a refresher, before proceeding on with this segment. In this segment, I would like to present some information with regard to what are called the Type 2 reverse Indian cents.

To date, all Type 2 reverses (of which there are many) have often been referred to as doubled dies. In some texts, this doubling has been described as a Type 1 die being rehubbbed with a Type 3 design. While there are some Type 2 reverse dies that also happen to be truly doubled dies, this fact has only obscured the central question of: "How were the Type 2 reverse dies made?"

Within my own reference work, written with Kevin Flynn, I, too, had referred to the Type 2 reverse as a doubled die. Since then, I have had the opportunity to acquire a few more different specimens and to re-evaluate the situation. Following is a presentation of my findings, along with my conclusions.

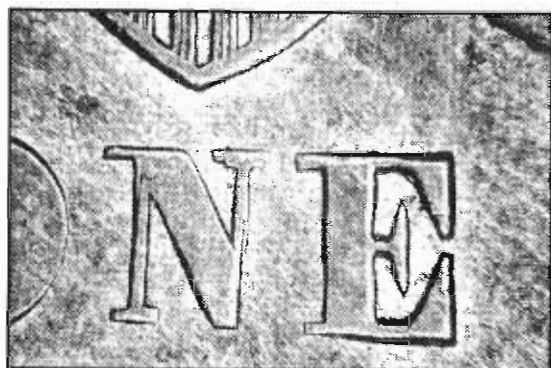
Let's begin with a basic description of the Type 2 reverse. The "N" of ONE, and the "E" and "N" of CENT are doubled; The "E" of ONE is T-shaped and the secondary "E" of CENT is trumpet shaped. The reverse may or may not show other signs of doubling.

The most obvious and puzzling aspect of the Type 2 reverse that has been overlooked until now is that the "E" of ONE remains T-shaped, whereas the "E" of CENT is trumpet shaped. If the Type 2 reverse dies were as a result of rehubbbing (i.e., Type 3 over Type 1 doubled die), then one would expect to find both final "E"s trumpet shaped - although, this is not the case. This is a very reasonable expectation for doubled dies, as the proximity of the "E"s are somewhat central to the reverse die; the doubling of one "E" through the hubbing process would likely result in the doubling of the other "E". The very description of a Type 2 reverse, however, belies this expectation. How then were the Type 2 reverse dies made?

In order to explore this question further, it was necessary for me to find and examine several Type 2s. I was very fortunate in this endeavor as I was able to acquire three coins that may help to unravel this mystery. The single most important aspect of all three coins (shown below) is that the only doubling appears on the "N" of ONE and the "E" and "N" of CENT - THERE IS NO OTHER DOUBLING ELSEWHERE ON THE REVERSE OF THESE COINS.

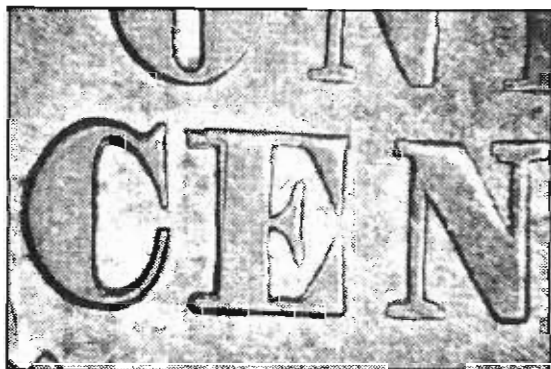
Observations:

The first coin, shown below, I refer to as Coin # 1; it depicts the “N” and “E” of ONE. Note that the upper right serif of the underlying “N” of ONE is very long, whereas the secondary impression shows a short upper right serif with a deep impression of the lower right corner. This is indicative of a Type 3 style “N” over Type 1 style “N”. Tucked away inside the upper right corner of the “E” of ONE is an extra line and the center serif is T-shaped, as found on Type 1. I consider these last two aspects to be very important because, had this been a doubled die, these characteristics would have been obliterated.



Type 2 Reverse “ONE” - Coin # 1

This next photo of Coin # 1 shows letters from the word CENT. Note the upper left serif of the underlying “E” of CENT is long, whereas the secondary impression is short. Again, this is indicative of a Type 3 style “E” over a Type 1 style “E”. The center serif is trumpet shaped as expected.



Type 2 Reverse “CENT” - Coin # 1

CRUCIAL ASPECT: The right upright leg of the secondary “N” of CENT is intact. I consider this to be a revealing aspect, as will be seen later. You should also note the slight positional differences of the secondary “E” and “N” of CENT on this coin as compared to the other two.

The next two photos are of Coin # 2. The first photo shows that the upper right serif of “N” of ONE appears different from the preceding (Coin # 1); and the extra line remains tucked away inside the upper right corner of “E” of ONE with the center serif T-shaped. The second photo is of “E” and “N” of CENT.



Type 2 Reverse “ONE” - Coin # 2



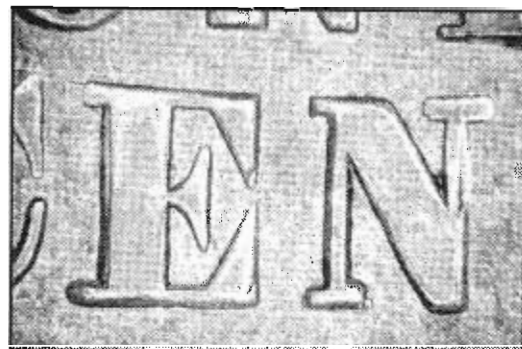
Type 2 Reverse “CENT” - Coin # 2

CRUCIAL ASPECT: The right upright leg of “N” of CENT shows some signs of breakage. There are also some positional differences to note.

The next two photos of Coin # 3 are perhaps the most revealing. In the first photo the "N" of ONE is again different; and the extra line of "E" of ONE remains, as well as the center serif T-shaped.



Type 2 Reverse "ONE" - Coin #3



Type 2 Reverse "CENT" - Coin # 3

CRUCIAL ASPECT: The right upright leg of the secondary "N" of CENT is now completely broken. Again, there are optionally differences.

Other Considerations:

Craig B. Sholley mentions on page 66 in Dave Bowers' book, *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*, "The inscription ONE CENT was punched into the master die." I spoke to Craig about this, as I had not previously given it much consideration. During our conversation, we agreed that different master dies might be determined by slight positional differences of the inscription relative to the other devices on the reverse, although neither of us had actually undertaken the task.

In Rick Snow's book, *Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*, a specific 1856 Flying Eagle cent is listed with "Rev. A: tilted "ONE CENT" (page 28, Pattern Issue S1). Although this is a Flying Eagle cent and not an Indian cent, perhaps this was as a result of a rotated inscription punch and may nonetheless be applicable to Indian cents as well.

When trying to determine if a letter punch had been used, some of the characteristics that I look for include: "outline images" from the base of the punch itself, positional differences, or evidence of broken serifs or other parts of the letter.

Conclusions

It is my impression that a new inscription punch was being made (Type 3 lettering style) to be later used on the master dies; and that in the interim, Type 1 dies were being individually altered with partial changes to the lettering style creating the Type 2 dies. Thus, these Type 2 dies represent a transitional design change.

Given that there is no other doubling elsewhere on the three coins presented (other than specific letters of ONE CENT), given that the Type 3 reverse (previously presented) does show some evidence of "outline images", based on my observations of positional differences and broken letters, and further based on the other consideration above, I can only conclude that the three Type 2 reverse Indian cents shown in this article are NOT doubled dies. Because there are noticeable positional differences and different stages of a broken letter between three different dies, I can only conclude that changes were made on working dies rather than a master die.

Finally, it is my belief that the Type 2 reverse Indian cent working dies were first hubbed with a Type 1 design and then subsequently punched with letter punches. As to those Type 2 reverses that also happen to be a doubled die, although not shown in this article, they display the characteristics of being Type 1 doubled dies that were subsequently punched with letter punches.

Perhaps the 1870 Type 2 reverse die Indian cents should be more accurately referred to as Repunched Letter (RPL) varieties.

Bibliography:

Bowers, Q. David. *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*. Wolfeboro, NH: Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., 1996.

Snow, Richard. *Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*. Tucson, AZ: Eagle Eye Press, 1992.

Steve, Larry R., and Kevin J. Flynn. *A Comprehensive Guide to Selected Rare Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Die Varieties*. Jarrettsville, MD: Nuvista Press, 1995.

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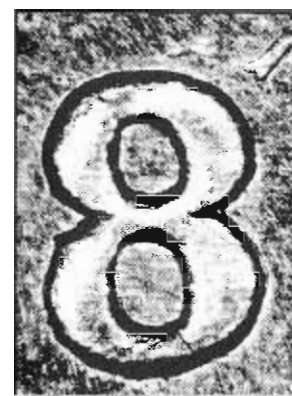
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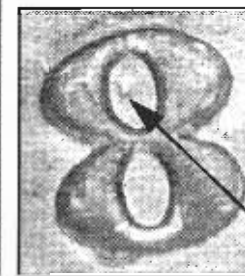
by Marvin R. Erickson, Fly-In Club Member

Photos courtesy of Larry Steve, Kevin Flynn, and Marvin R. Erickson

See the April-June 1997 Journal for the first part of this article.



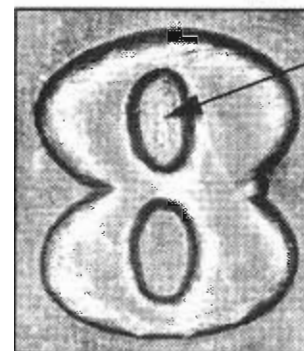
Wire edge



In 1858 and 1888, surplus cent dies from 1857 and 1887 were annealed and rehubb in an attempt to efface the 57 and 87 dates. The current dates of 1858 and 1888 were then installed; thus were created the 1858/7 S1 and 1888/7 die 1 and die 2.

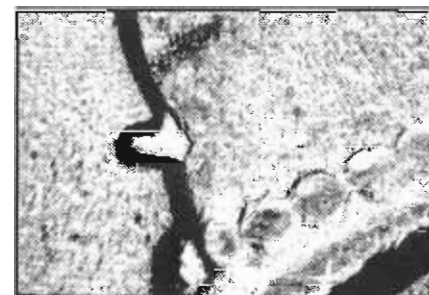
Wire edge effaced similar to 1867 S1.

FND 001 S 1

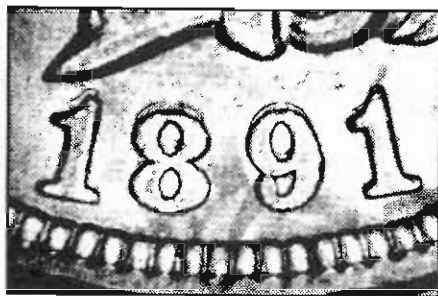


FND 002 S 2

BELOW: Note the 1 in the neck is from a different date punch than the 1 in the date. Using a comparator, I have very carefully measured the bottom left serif of the 1 in the date and the bottom left serif of the 1 in the neck and I find the serif in the neck to be 50% longer than the serif on the 1 in the date.

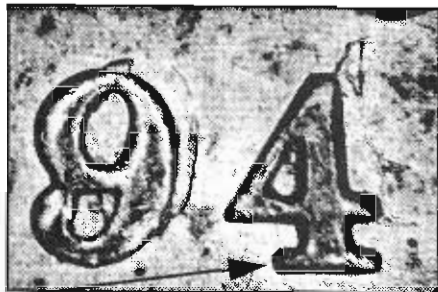


FND 001 S 1 1997 1 in neck



LEFT: 1891 S 3 FND002

Top of 8 and 9 completely disappear at top center. The only known method of effacing a digit in such a manner is by the pressure of rehubbing.



RIGHT: 1894 S 1 FND001

The original 4 shows reduced size on top, then degrades to a wire edge and is distorted to the right, indicating the die metal flowed to the right under the extreme pressure of rehubbing.

This RPD exhibits identical characteristics as the 1857 doubled die pictured here.

This is an example of degradation of an original hub impression after annealing and rehubbing in a slightly different position.

Note the wire edge.



1857 S 4 FND004

RIGHT: 1867 S 1 FND001

This was at one time considered a large over small date punch. Actually, this coin exhibits the shrinkage or degradation of rehubbing.



**LEFT: 1886 P Dollar
VAM 1 BO, Erickson LE-1**

Note the bottom of the 8 under the M on the neck. The 8 under the neck was from a flat-top date punch common to the era but not the same round-top date punch used on the date.

Some experts don't feel there is enough evidence to support the idea that this is an MPD, but then the idea of MPDs on dollars is a fairly new thought. What one finds is that MPDs are only a small portion of a digit. If a person is looking for absolute proof of MPDs (e.g., an entire digit), then they are in for a disappointment and should be exploring other fields of coin collecting.

VAM refers to this coin as a die gouge VAM 1A. In my experience, I have yet to see a known die gouge that resembles a digit and the odds of such would appear to be extremely remote. The best method of authenticating MPDs seems to be "If it walks like a duck and looks like a duck it must be a duck." Presently I have 12 MPDs in the Morgan dollar series and another 10 or so that I wouldn't confirm just yet. Judging by the ease with which these 12 MPDs were found, my guess is there may be a hundred or so yet to be discovered.

The primary difference between MPDs and RPDs seems to be that MPDs were punched into the devices of the die where the die would have been most distorted and the work hardening would have been most prevalent. Therefore, the best place to be testing for work hardening would be in the devices (i.e., shoulders, hair, neck, beads, denticles, ear, etc.).

RPDs appear only on the flat field surfaces of the die or coin where work hardening would have been the least prevalent.

The generally accepted theory of the RPDs seems to be that the die maker simply replaced the die punch over the existing digit he had just struck and re-struck the punch in an attempt to deepen the digit impressions or relocate the digit location. That theory runs counter to the evidence.

RPDs exhibit the same shrinking or degradation that MPDs do, suggesting that most RPDs went through the same process of rehubbing.

In the 1800s, die makers lacked the benefit of pressure gauges and pressure sensing devices to accurately gauge the pressure exerted on dies, and in their own primitive and ingenious way, they developed a method of observing the effects of the die pressure in the hubbing process.

By testing one die out of the rack (and I estimate there to be from 12 to 24 dies in a rack), the die maker was able to adjust his machine for that batch of dies. By using one die out of the annealing rack as a test die, he simply impressed the date on the die after the first hubbing and then observed the degradation or disappearance of the date during subsequent hubbings. The degradation is a direct indication of the pressure on the dies. Having placed the test punch in the approximate location of the final date position, he reasoned that the final date would cover any remaining evidence of the previous punch.

I suspect that in most cases all evidence of the original punch was completely effaced. What we find today as repunched dates are only remnants of the die tests that were acceptable to the mint's quality control. Anything that was too bold or unacceptable was reworked or destroyed.

There are a few RPDs that exhibit evidence to fit the accepted theory of repunched dates, but they are quite rare.

There are over 300 misplaced digit varieties on the Indian Head cent series, and I am researching the other denominations between the years 1847 and 1909. There are misplaced digits in all denominations except the Three-Cent silver piece.

Presently, there is no authoritative book on the subject, but Keviu Flynn is writing another book dedicated entirely to misplaced digits in all denominations of U.S. coins. I eagerly await the printing of Kevin's book so I might see what other collectors have found.

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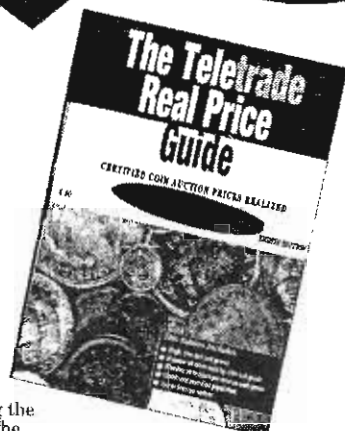
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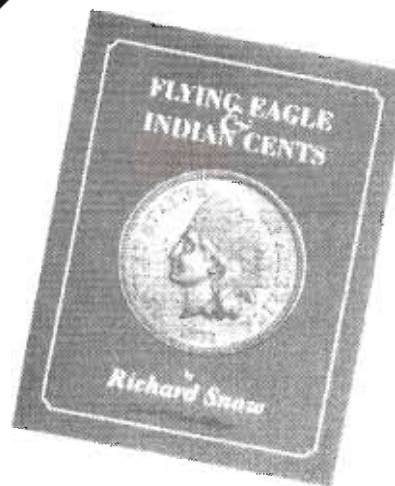
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